

MOLD

GENERAL INFORMATION

Molds are part of the natural environment and can be found almost anywhere; they can grow on virtually any organic substance, as long as moisture and oxygen are present. There are molds that can grow on wood, paper, carpet, foods, and insulation. When excessive moisture accumulates in buildings or on building materials, mold growth will often occur, particularly if the moisture problem remains undiscovered or unaddressed.

(EPA's website: <http://www.epa.gov/mold/index.html>.)

U.S. ARMY GARRISON MOLD RESPONSE AND MANAGEMENT

- Contact DPW ENV division Clean Air Program (refer to the POC directory)
- Provide DPW ENV with the details of the mold issue including your contact info.
- DPW ENV will provide this information to the Tripler Army Medical Center, Industrial Hygienist division.
- The Industrial Hygienist will coordinate and conduct an investigation of the mold complaint to include determining if mold is present and the cause of the mold growth. Based on the investigation, the Industrial Hygienist will assist with the necessary forms that may be required in order to repair the cause of the mold growth and clean/remove the contamination.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- When water leaks or spills occur indoors - **ACT QUICKLY**. If wet or damp materials or areas are dried 24-48 hours after a leak or spill happens, in most cases mold will not grow.
- Report all plumbing leaks and moisture problems immediately to DPW Work Order Desk. If residing in AHFH, promptly notify your community center about any signs of water leaks, water infiltration, or mold.
- Most buildings on USAG-HI installations have central air conditioning. Windows and doors should remain closed to prevent condensation that can occur when warm moist air from the outside mixes with the conditioned air inside.
- Run the bathroom fan when showering. Use exhaust fans whenever cooking, running the dishwasher or dishwashing, etc.
- Keep your home/office clean. Regular vacuuming, mopping, dusting, and using a household cleaner to clean hard surfaces are important to remove the household dirt and debris that harbors mold or provides food for mold.
- Read More At: <http://www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/sustainability/CleanAir.aspx>

Some of these suggestions came from: <http://www.epa.gov/mold/preventionandcontrol.html>

For more info contact: DPW Clean Air Program or TAMC Industrial Hygienist Division.